

Sermon Summary May 26

Sailing in the Storm

Mark 4:35-41

The Presence of Storms and the Presence of Fear

The Sea of Galilee is 690 feet below sea level and surrounded by hills so wind and storms are not uncommon. It is significant to note that while many of the disciples were experienced fishermen, even they were terrified by the storm that came in Mark 4. We often find ourselves in the midst of trials and storms that cause us to question whether God really cares for us. There will be times when storms will surround you and it will feel as if God is asleep or absent in the world. But our God is there! The only one not shook by the storms of the world that we find ourselves in is the One that is sovereign over it all!

The Presence of God

The answer to the problem of storms, fear, and suffering is found in the presence of God. We confront the presence of fear with the presence and person of Christ. Even though Christ calmed the storm, the disciples became more terrified. The reason that this happened was because they recognized that no ordinary man was in the boat with them. They were in the presence of God! We need to rediscover what it means to stand in awe and fear the Lord. God is God and we are not and the only hope that we have that we can stand in His presence is in the knowledge that our God is good.

The Presence of Peace

After all that the disciples had experienced with Jesus, why were they afraid and why did they doubt? They had no reason to question the love or abilities of Jesus but don't we often do the same thing? How do we confront this doubt? By asking for a greater increase of faith. A great example of this comes in Mark 9:24 (I do believe, help my unbelief). If we struggle with doubt and unbelief as we navigate life's storms, why would we not ask that the Lord would help us? Why are we so afraid to ask what Christ is so willing to grant? The surety that we can go through life storms with the full assurance of the peace of God comes from the reality that Christ has already endured the storm that we could not take on our own. If Jesus was willing to bear the full weight of God's wrath towards your sin and my sin, if He is willing to do that for us now, why would we question if He cares? Our perfect peace comes from the knowledge that our God is for us and not against us.